



Tempe Public Art



Michael Maglich

Sirens of Highway 60, 2004

Latex reinforced concrete casts

Location: College Avenue
Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge
College Avenue & U.S. Route 60

Artist website:
www.Maglich.com

Description: The city of Tempe is named after the Vale of Tempe in Greek mythology, an idyllic place where the gods went for rest and relaxation. This significance, as well as the Arizona Department of Transportation's Greek labyrinth patterning along the walls of U.S. Route 60, inspired the artist's design. Sirens, from Greek mythology and referenced in *The Odyssey* by Homer, were half-woman, half-bird creatures that lured unsuspecting sailors to their shores with singing. The forms of the Greek sirens are based on a bronze from the Getty Museum collection with faces modeled after Tempe residents who were involved in some way with the project. They appear to descend the ramps on both sides of the bridge and fly across the patterned walls. Approximately 180 sirens, slightly larger than pigeons, are attached to the walls.

Artist biography: Maglich was born in Buffalo, N.Y., and moved to Arizona 1946. In 1964 he moved to Los Angeles and attended Chouinard Art Institute where he studied with Emerson Woelffer, Mike Kanemitsu, Frederick Hammersley and Stephan Von Huene. He also studied independently in France, India, Hungary, Czech Republic, Tahiti and the Yucatan, and Mexico. Maglich is experienced as a studio and public artist. His collections and commissions include Bank of America, Bank One, Del Webb Corporation, Streich Lang, Morrison Forester, Los Angeles Gas Company, Salt River Project, Tucson Museum of Art, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, City of Phoenix, City of Tempe, Armstrong-Prior and City of Glendale.

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